

November, 2003

Dear Friends,

"We ain't happy but we ain't leaving." One of our rectors reported that comment to me after an evening with parishioners discussing the current controversies in the Episcopal Church regarding the consecration of Bishop Gene Robinson in New Hampshire.

As I consider the community meetings we had around the Diocese in September and October and the volume of mail and e-mails that I have received since General Convention, I think that is a fairly accurate description of the position of many people in the Diocese of Virginia. I certainly have received messages from people who are so unhappy with the Episcopal Church, that they have told me they are leaving. Some trace their unhappiness back to the ordination of women and to the adoption of the 1979 Book of Common Prayer and see the ordination of Bishop Robinson as the last straw. Far more people, at least the ones who have been in touch with me, convey their love of the Episcopal Church and their loyalty to it but express their opposition or at least their ambiguity regarding the consecration of Bishop Robinson.

I am not so bold as to predict what the outcome of these controversies might be. I have some core beliefs that are guiding me. One is the sovereignty of God and the truth of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Another is the Holy Spirit's presence in the church to guide, to instruct, to inform and to lead us in directions that are surprising. Based on those beliefs, I believe we are called to exercise a deeper form of life in community than we have known before.

We need to hear directly from people who are deeply upset about Bishop Robinson's consecration; we need to hear directly from gay and lesbian members of our church who believe they have been marginalized for generations; we need to affirm the energy for mission that has long characterized the Diocese of Virginia and is far more significant than our differences over the place of gay and lesbian people in our lives.

Leaving settles nothing. Staying engaged with one another at a time of stress is an opportunity to witness to what unites us in Jesus Christ and to express that most difficult kind of love: love for our enemies and for those with whom we disagree most deeply.

I hope in the weeks and months ahead, the churches of the Diocese of Virginia can be places with a renewed loyalty to Christ and his gospel and a renewed appreciation for those among us who differ from one another.

That kind of life will, I believe, open us to the surprises that God has in store for us.

Faithfully yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter James Lee". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "P" and a long, sweeping underline.

Peter James Lee

About the Communiqué

Please feel free to use the material in the Communiqué, excerpting or reprinting parts of it in your newsletter, or posting the entire issue on your congregation's bulletin board. Please share it with others in your congregation who might find it helpful: Christian educators, church musicians, parish secretaries, parish newsletter editors, youth leaders.

The Communiqué is sent free of charge to canonically resident clergy, junior and senior wardens, members of the Executive Board and the Standing Committee, deputies to General Convention and Province III, and regional Presidents. Others may receive the Communiqué for a \$10 annual subscription fee. To subscribe, send a check made payable to the Diocese of Virginia (note that it's for the Communiqué) along with your name and mailing address, to the address below. The Communiqué also is online at the diocesan website: www.thediocese.net.

Deadline for the Communiqué is the first business day of each month. You may mail, FAX or e-mail information. We are unable to accept information for the Communiqué by telephone.

Please address all correspondence to: Communiqué, The Diocese of Virginia, 110 W. Franklin St., Richmond, Va. 23220. FAX: 804/644-6928.

E-mail: njenkins@thediocese.net

Prayers

Your prayers are asked for Maureen Sydnor, the Rev. Timothy Berry, Mary Jenks, the Rev. Edwin Williams, Wilmer Moomaw.

Pray each week for the **Lutheran, Anglican and Roman Catholic dioceses and synods in Virginia and their bishops; pray for churches that suffer persecution.** Please pray for the following congregations and clergy during the weeks indicated. Congregations are scheduled for visits by the Bishops on their prayer dates.

Sunday, November 16: St. Andrew's, Burke-the Rev. Randall Prior, the Rev. Robyn Neville-Reeder; Lynnwood Parish, Port Republic-the Rev. Stuart Wood; Grace, Stanardsville-Please pray for this parish in its search for a rector, the Rev. Jane Barr, interim rector; St. Mary's Whitechapel, Lively, and Trinity, Lancaster-the Rev. Scott West; Immanuel, King & Queen-Please pray for this parish

in its search for a vicar; St. David's, Aylett-the Rev. James Iswariah; Hanover with Brunswick Parish, King George-the Rev. Deborah Johnson Newcomb.

Sunday, November 23: Emmanuel, Middleburg-Please pray for this parish in its search for a rector; Grace, Casanova-the Rev. James Chipps; Messiah, Chancellor-the Rev. James Reed; St. John the Baptist, Ivy-the Rev. Kathleen Sturges; Holy Cross, Batesville-the Rev. Anthony Andres.

Sunday, November 30: Grace and St. Mary's, Berryville-the Rev. Dwight Brown; Cople, Hague-the Rev. John Wall; Christchurch, Middlesex-the Rev. Scott Krejci.

Sunday, December 7: St. Francis, Great Falls-the Rev. Penny Bridges, the Rev. Earnest Graham; St. John's, Columbia-Please pray for this parish in its search for a vicar, the Rev. Melvin Richardson, interim vicar; Piedmont, Madison-the Rev. Brad Jackson; Emmanuel, Rapidan-the Rev. Lee Moore; St. David's, Ashburn-the Rev. Stephen McWhorter.

Sunday, December 14: Grace, Keswick-the Rev. Julie Norton; St. Peter's, Richmond-the Rev. Simeon Newbold; St. Philip's, Richmond-the Rev. Charles Poindexter; Creator, Mechanicsville-the Rev. William Burk; Our Saviour, Oatlands-the Rev. Elijah White.

Sunday, December 21: Potomac Falls, Potomac Falls-the Rev. Jack Grubbs; St. Bartholomew's, Richmond-Please pray for this parish in its search for a vicar, the Rev. Mario Gonzalez, interim rector. Please pray for Staff and Campers of Shrine Mont holding a reunion this week.

Sunday, December 28: Please pray for the Bishops and Staff of the Diocese.

Announcements

Sewanee's Summer Doctor of Ministry Program

The Doctor of Ministry Program of the University of Sewanee begins its 13th year this summer. It is one of the few programs of its kind which operates only during the summer months, affording clergy the opportunity to participate without a major interruption in their parish responsibilities. Courses offered this summer include: "Issues in Recent American Church History"; "Introduction to Spiritual Direction"; and "The Theology of Rowan Williams." For more information, call 800-722-1974 or visit <http://theology.sewanee.edu>.

Get it online at www.thediocese.net

Pre-Council Meeting Set for January

In an effort to help delegates become better informed about the legislation they will consider, a special pre-Council meeting has been set for January 17, 2004 at St. Paul's Church in Richmond from 10 a.m.- 2 p.m. Bishop Lee will speak as will representatives of select diocesan ministries. Legislation and the diocesan budget also will be reviewed and the day will end with a celebration of the Holy Eucharist. A light lunch will be served.

Though not a formal opening session of Council, the pre-Council meeting is intended for clerical and lay delegates and alternates, and attendance requires registration. The packet of registration materials as well as the call for resolutions and nominations was sent to delegates, clergy, *ex officio* members of Council and other elected officials in October.

Annual Council will be held January 30-31 at the Hyatt Regency Reston. Please keep the following phone number and list of extensions handy for ready reference as questions arise.

Main number: 1-800-DIOCESE, or 804-643-8451

Registration: Harriet Jones x40

Exhibits: Joe Wingenbach x33, Ken Malcolm x29

**Agenda, Resolutions
& General Info:** Patrick Getlein x30

Vicars' Meeting Opened for Diocesan Clergy

Bishop Jones extends an invitation for diocesan clergy to attend a presentation and discussion on Christian/Muslim Relations on Wednesday, November 19, from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at Church of the Messiah, Chancellor. Dr. Mehdi Aminrazavi, Associate Professor of Philosophy and Religion at Mary Washington College in Fredericksburg, will talk about Islam and the Koran and the points of connection and differences with Christianity. He will suggest ways of entering into dialogue with persons of the Muslim faith. To register, please send an e-mail message to Barbara Greer at bgreer@thediocese.net or contact her at 703-824-1325 by Thursday, November 13. Church of the Messiah is located at 5875 Plank Road in Fredericksburg.

Churches in Search

Receiving Names

Gordonsville, Christ Church: Rector, rural, 140 communicants, total operating revenue \$143,000.

Middleburg, Emmanuel; Rector, full time: town; 238 communicants, total operating revenue \$304,600.

Richmond, Emmanuel, Brook Hill; Rector, full time, 471 communicants, total operating revenue \$315, 200.

Richmond, St. Martin's: Rector, full time, suburban, 213 communicants, total operating revenue \$153,500.

Building Profile

Annandale, St. Alban's: Rector, Full time, suburban, 415 communicants, total operating revenue \$425,000.

Doswell, The Fork Church; Rector, part time, rural, statistics to be provided.

Fleeton, St. Mary's: Rector, full time, town, 106 communicants, total operating revenue \$153,000.

Fredericksburg, St. George's: Rector, full time, town, 880 communicants, total operating revenue \$550,000.

Hanover, St. Paul's: Rector, full time, suburban, 189 communicants, total operating revenue \$157,000.

New Kent, St. Peter's Parish Church: Rector, full time, 230 communicants, \$170,000 total operating revenue.

Stanardsville, Grace Church: Rector, full time, town, 97 communicants, total operating revenue \$96,000.

Woodbridge, St. Margaret's: Rector, full time, suburban, 302 communicants, total operating income \$412,000.

No Longer Receiving Names

Harrisonburg, Emmanuel: Rector, town, 388 communicants, total operating revenue \$259,000.

Get it online at www.thediocese.net

King George, St. Paul's, Owens: Rector, full time, rural, 151 communicants, total operating revenue \$117,000.

Richmond, St. Philip's, Rector, full time, urban, 187 communicants, total operating revenue \$250,200.

Assistant/Associate Clergy

Charlottesville: St. Paul's Memorial Church—Associate Rector/University Chaplain: Full time associate rector position with an emphasis on Christian Education at all levels, pastoral ministry, as well as some involvement with University ministry at the University of Virginia. Contact: The Rev. David L. Poist at St. Paul's Memorial Church, Charlottesville, 434-295-2156, 1700 University Avenue, Charlottesville, VA 22903.

Winchester: Christ Church— A resource-sized parish is looking for a third person to complete its clergy team. Full range of parish responsibilities including preaching, teaching and pastoral care. Special emphasis on college ministry and ministry to parents with younger children. Christ Church is an historic downtown congregation with a growing younger membership as well as a significant number of established families. Very involved in ecumenical activities, local outreach and education. Budget of \$500,000. Current professional staff includes two clergy, organist/choir director, director of children's music, DRE, parish nurse, and seminarian. www.christchurchwinchester.org Please contact The Rev. Douglas Wm McCaleb, rector. parson@christchurchwinchester.org (540)662-5843.

Other Positions

Please direct all announcements for non-clergy positions to the Editor Nancy Jenkins at njenkins@thediocese.net or via mail or fax at the Mayo House. Please make descriptions 100 words or less. Position will run in two issues unless subsequent announcements are requested.

Falls Church — The Falls Church seeks a full-time Worship Leader to lead praise & worship music at the 11 a.m. Sunday "informal" service and Alpha Ministry events. Responsibilities include building worship teams and establishing a cohesive approach to the worship team ministry of TFC. The position is available immediately. Salary and benefits will be commensurate with experience. Please send resume and video tape (preferred) or CD/audio tape demonstrating worship leading ability to: Marvin L. Crawford, Director of Music and Worship, The Falls Church, 115 E. Fairfax Street, Falls

Calendar

November

13

Executive Board meeting – Grace Church, 303 S. Main St., Kilmarnock - 10:00 a.m.

Fresh Start - 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. at St. George's, Fredericksburg.

14

Shrine Mont Board meeting – Virginia Diocesan Center at Roslyn, 10:30 a.m.

Stewardship Retreat – Virginia Diocesan Center at Roslyn.

17

Committee on Aging meeting – Trinity Church, 825 College Ave., Fredericksburg, 9:30 a.m.

Education for Ministry (EFM) Basic training for mentors continues through Nov. 19, at Virginia Theological Seminary. For more information, contact the Rev. Dr. Jo-Ann Murphy at 804/355-3251.

Parish Development Overnight - 5:00 p.m. Monday to 3:00 p.m. Tuesday, at the Virginia Diocesan Center at Roslyn, 8787 River Road, Richmond. For more information, call Mary Anne Bryant at 1-800/DIOCESE, ext. 15 or email mabryant@thediocese.net.

26

Mayo House Holiday Closing - diocesan office closed half day, through Nov. 28.

December

1

Diocesan Fund for Human Need - grant application deadline. For more information, contact the Rev. Lynne Washington at 804/643-8451, ext 25.

4

Committee on Education meeting – Trinity Church, 825 College Ave., Fredericksburg; 10 a.m.

Regional Deans meeting - Trinity Church, 825 College Ave., Fredericksburg; 10 a.m.

Ecumenical & Interfaith Commission meeting - Trinity Church, 825 College Ave., Fredericksburg; 10 a.m.

Get it online at www.thediocese.net

Calendar

5

United Thank Offering - grant application deadline. For more information, contact the Rev. Lynne Washington at 804/643-8451, ext 25.

World Mission Commission meeting - Trinity Church, 825 College Ave., Fredericksburg; 10 a.m.

8

Parish Youth Ministries Committee meeting - St. George's Church, 905 Princess Anne St., Fredericksburg; 6:15 p.m.

11

Fresh Start - 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. at St. George's, Fredericksburg.

15

Committee on Aging meeting - Trinity Church, 825 College Ave., Fredericksburg; 9:30 a.m.

16

Commission on Human Need meeting - Trinity Church, 825 College Ave., Fredericksburg; 10 a.m.

17

5th Century Fund Steering Committee meeting - Trinity Church, 825 College Ave., Fredericksburg.

18

Executive Board meeting - Mayo Memorial Church House, 110 W. Franklin St., Richmond; 10:00 a.m.

20

Ordination of Deacons - 10:00 a.m.; Washington National Cathedral.